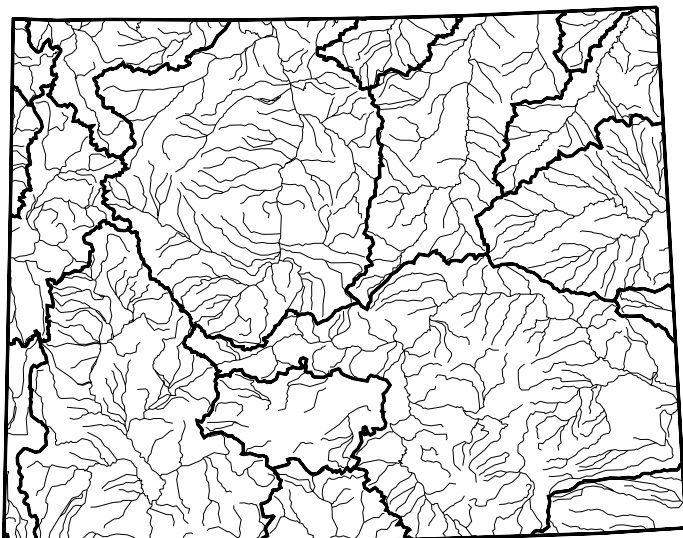


Wyoming



— Basin Boundaries
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Wyoming 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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Surface Water Quality

Historic land and water management activities, compounded by climatological events, led to accelerated loss of streamside vegetation in many parts of Wyoming during the early parts of this century. This downcutting resulted in considerable amounts of erosion, sediment loading, and sediment deposition as the streams reestablished more natural and stable channels and flood plains. Better land and water management, along with improved treatment of discharges, has improved the water quality in Wyoming over the last several decades.

Overall, the water quality in Wyoming is excellent to good in

most of the state. Currently, the most widespread problems in rivers and streams are related to sediment loading, and the resultant loss of aquatic habitat, from activities such as long-duration grazing, certain irrigation practices, and some activities associated with road building and maintenance. The second most common water quality problems are localized cases of fecal contamination from urban runoff, illicit connections, and unknown sources. These problems are being addressed through numerous locally led watershed improvement projects, educational programs, and active public participation in the decision making process.

Wyoming did not report on the condition of wetlands.

Ground Water Quality

Petroleum hydrocarbons are the most common contaminants impacting Wyoming's ground water, followed by halogenated solvents, salinity/brine, nitrates, and pesticides. Common sources of contamination include leaking above- and underground storage tanks, fertilizer and pesticide application, spills, landfills, and pipelines and sewer lines. Natural contaminants are also found in Wyoming's ground water. These include radionuclides, fluoride, metals, and salts whose sources are primarily subsurface geologic materials.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) oversees the NPDES program in Wyoming. DEQ reviews industrial and municipal permit applications












and ensures that proper design criteria are implemented. Wyoming's nonpoint source control program is nonregulatory and relies on voluntary cooperative efforts to control NPS pollution. Program efforts focus on providing information and education to the public; demonstrating, implementing, and cost-sharing best management practices; and coordinating with local, state, and federal agencies.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

In the past, Wyoming relied primarily on information from other agencies to determine which waterbodies had water quality impairments and should be listed on the 303(d) list. After a lawsuit was filed in 1996 over the state's Total Maximum Daily Loads program, it was discovered that much of the information used to list those waterbodies was inconclusive. Wyoming made an agreement with EPA that it would list on future 303(d) lists only those waterbodies that had conclusive and scientifically valid data suggesting impairment. In 1998 Wyoming tripled the size of its monitoring staff to better conduct comprehensive (biological, chemical, and physical) water quality assessments on those waterbodies on the 1996 303(d) list that lacked that conclusive and valid data. Wyoming has committed to monitoring all those waterbodies by the year 2002 and developing TMDLs on those waterbodies that need them by the year 2007.

In addition, many conservation districts have begun training to conduct credible and comprehensive water quality assessments to provide data needed for locally led water quality improvement programs.

Individual Use Support in Wyoming

Designated Use ^a	Percent				
	Good (Fully Supporting)	Good (Threatened)	Fair (Partially Supporting)	Poor (Not Supporting)	Not Attainable
Rivers and Streams (Total Miles = 108,767)^b					
 Total Miles Assessed	90				
 20,188		2	2	<1	6
 Total Miles Assessed	100				
 18,997		0	0	0	0
 -	-	-	-	-	-
Lakes (Total Acres = 325,048)					
 Total Acres Assessed	-	-	-	-	-
 -	-	-	-	-	-
 -	-	-	-	-	-
 -	-	-	-	-	-
 -	-	-	-	-	-
 -	-	-	-	-	-

- Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Wyoming's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.